

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04204 290802Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5011

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4204

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, IS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SHIHABI VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 254912

1. HAVE MADE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS SEE SHIHABI SINCE RECEIPT YOUR MESSAGE EARLY MORNING OCTOBER 27. HE PREOCCUPIED THROUGHOUT THAT DAY WITH VISIT OF JORDANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF AND WAS STILL UNAVAILABLE AS OF NIGHT OCTOBER 28. WHEN WE MAKE CONTACT, HOPEFULLY TODAY, I WILL DISCUSS SUGGESTION HE COME TO WASHINGTON IN WAY THAT WILL DISASSOCIATE IDEA FROM SADAT VISIT TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.

2. I SHARE ASSUMPTION THAT SARG WILL NOT APPROVE SHIHABI VISIT. I AM, THEREFORE, PLANNING AFTER MEETING WITH SHIHABI TO SEE KHADDAM AT END OF THIS WEEK AND TO INFORM HIM IN ROUTINE FASHION THAT I EXPECT RETURN WASHINGTON FOR BRIEFINGS NEXT WEEK. UNLESS YOU THINK IT DESIRABLE I DO NOT PLAN REQUEST SEPARATE MEETING WITH ASAD FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT WILL ASK KHADDAM TO ADVISE HIM.

3. ASSUMING SHIHABI WILL NOT COME, I PLAN ARRIVE WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 6 ON EARLY AFTERNOON PAN AM FLIGHT FROM LONDON.

MURPHY

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